Pakistani Vessel Caught by Coast Guard

*526. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Pakistan is going apace with military build-up in regions adjoining India, particularly in the Kutch;

(b) whether this summer is going to be fairly hot for the security forces along the LoC and PoK;

(c) whether a Pakistani vessel has been seized by the Coast Guard recently and Pakistan is building underground shelters for aircraft and an airbase in the Northern areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Certain military activities and troops movements, including air surveillance measures such as deployment of radars and surface to air missiles have been observed across the border opposite Rann of Kutch/Creek in Gujarat sector. There are reports available on Pakistan army having carried out certain readjustments on the Line of Control and some reserve formations have also been moved from their permanent locations closer to the Line of Control. As of now, however, no major build up has taken place at Kutch. It has been a usual trend that in the summer months, with the opening of the passes, there is an enhanced level of activity on the Pakistani side, with the aim of abetting infiltration.

Six Pak fishing vessels were apprehended by the Indian Coast Guard for Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) violations as these vessels were found illegaUy fishing without any valid jjermit or documents. Another Pak fishing vessel was located by the Coast Guard in a distressed condition. After providing necessary medical assistance, the crew were handed over to the local police.

There are no confirmed reports regarding Pakistan's attempt to build up underground shelters for aircraft etc.

Constant vigil is maintained along the land border as well as the maritime boundary, and all appropriate measures have been taken to thwart any attempt of misadventure on the Part of our adversaries.